

Application No.: 10/750,223

Case No.: 57920US002

Remarks

We have amended the specification to correct editorial matters including the matters noted by the Examiner.

We have amended claims 1 and 7 to correct the matters noted by the Examiner in her rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 USC § 112.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, and 8 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,897,288 to Fayling. Fayling describes a structure that, like the first structure according to the present invention, comprises a permanent magnet having a first magnet surface adapted to be positioned along a surface of a second structure comprising a layer of ferrous or ferromagnetic material so that one of the structures can be supported on the other structure by magnetic attraction, which first structure includes a layer of adhesive having a surface parallel with the first magnet surface positioned to adhere to the surface of the second structure to thereby restrict slipping of the surfaces of said first structure and the second structure relative to each other. Unlike the structure according to the present invention, however, the adhesive in the structure of Fayling is a layer of reactive or curable adhesive (see column 1, lines 15-20 and lines 38-42; and column 3 line 66 through column 4, line 14 of Fayling), and is intended to permanently bond the first and second structures together. In contrast, the layer of adhesive in the first structure according to the present invention is a permanently affixed layer of removable pressure sensitive adhesive having a surface parallel with said first magnet surface positioned to releasably adhere to the surface of the second structure to thereby restrict slipping of the surfaces of said first structure and the second structure relative to each other. Thus, the adhesive in the structure according to the present invention restricts such slippage, while allowing the first and second structures to be easily separated, which is not possible with the structures described by Fayling. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8 are not anticipated by Fayling, and should be allowed.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 8, and 9 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,683,520 to Sakai. Sakai describes a structure that like the structure according to the present invention comprises a permanent magnet having a first magnet surface adapted to be positioned along a surface of a second structure comprising a layer of ferrous or ferromagnetic material so that one of the structures can be supported on the other structure by

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magnetic attraction, the first structure including a permanently affixed layer comprising adhesive having a surface parallel with the first magnet surface. The adhesive in the structure of Sakai, however, appears to be a permanent adhesive (see column 3, lines 46-51 and column 4, lines 50-56 of Sakai), and is not intended to bond the first and second structures together or to restrict slippage between the first and second structures as that layer of adhesive is on the side of the permanent magnet opposite its first surface. In contrast, as noted above, the layer of adhesive in the first structure according to the present invention is a permanently affixed layer of removable pressure sensitive adhesive having a surface parallel with said first magnet surface positioned to releasably adhere to the surface of the second structure to thereby restrict slipping of the surfaces of said first structure and the second structure relative to each other. Thus, claims 1, 3, 6, 8, and 9 are not anticipated by Sakai, and should be allowed.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1, 6, and 7 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,612,632 to Paulus in view of U.S. Patent 6,472,037 to Kane. Paulus describes a structure that, like the first structure according to the present invention, comprises a permanent magnet having a first magnet surface adapted to be positioned along a surface of a second structure comprising a layer of ferrous or ferromagnetic material so that one of the structures can be supported on the other structure by magnetic attraction. Paulus, however, does not teach or suggest a structure including a permanently affixed layer of removable pressure sensitive adhesive having a surface parallel with the first magnet surface positioned to releasably adhere to the surface of the second structure to thereby restrict slipping of the surfaces of the first and second structures relative to each other. The Examiner has acknowledged this difference between the structure described by Paulus and the present invention by citing Kane. Kane describes structure comprising a permanent magnet having a first magnet surface adapted to be positioned along a surface of a second structure comprising a layer of ferrous or ferromagnetic material so that one of the structures can be supported on the other structure by magnetic attraction, which first structure includes a permanently affixed layer of removable pressure sensitive adhesive having a surface parallel with the first magnet surface. The adhesive in the structure of Kane, however, is not intended to bond the first and second structures together or to restrict slippage between the first and second structures as it is on the side of the permanent

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magnet opposite its first surface. In contrast, as noted above, the layer of adhesive in the first structure according to the present invention is a permanently affixed layer of removable pressure sensitive adhesive having a surface parallel with said first magnet surface positioned to releasably adhere to the surface of the second structure to thereby restrict slipping of the surfaces of said first structure and the second structure relative to each other. There is not teaching or suggestion in Kane to modify Paulus to provide such a structure. Thus, Claims 1, 6, and 7 are not made obvious by any combination of Paulus and Kane so that claims 1, 6 and 7 should be allowed.

Reconsideration in view of the amendment and above remarks, and allowance of all of the claims in the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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